

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SAM-01 CPR-01 SY-02

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R 221100Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5966

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0075

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MT, US

SUBJECT: GOM INTEREST IN MINTOFF OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. MALTESE AMBASSADOR TO THE US JOSEPH ATTARD KINGSWELL, WHO IS ALSO A ROVING DIPLOMATIC TROUBLE SHOOTER FOR PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF, HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR INFORMALLY WHETHER WASHINGTON MIGHT BE RESPONSIVE TO RECEIVING MINTOFF ON A BRIEF (2 OR 3 DAYS) OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON. HIS HOPE IS THAT SUCH A VISIT MIGHT TAKE PLACE EITHER JUST BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' APRIL/MAY MEETING IN JAMAICA.

2. ATTARD KINGSWELL STRESSED THAT HE HAD NOT RPT NOT EVEN RAISED THIS POSSIBILITY WITH MINTOFF AS YET AND DID NOT RPT NOT WISH TO DO SO UNLESS THERE WERE SOME ASSURANCES THAT AN OFFICIAL VISIT WOULD BE WELCOME AT THAT TIME. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT WHILE HE WOULD OF COURSE REPORT REQUEST, EVER-PRESENT PROBLEMS OF TIGHT SCHEDULES OF BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER MIGHT MAKE SUCH A VISIT DIFFICULT AT BEST. SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THIS PROBLEM AND THAT HE WOULD CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND IF SUCH A VISIT WAS NOT POSSIBLE.

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3. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, MINTOFF HAS LONG

BEEN ANGLING FOR A CHANCE TO TALK WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER,
AND, HOPEFULLY, THE PRESIDENT AS WELL. HE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY
IN 1973 TO ARRANGE A BRIEF STOP IN WASHINGTON BEFORE OR
AFTER OTTAWA COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE BUT STOPPED SHORT
OF CALLING IT AN OFFICIAL VISIT. MINTOFF HAS JUST
COMPLETED WHAT APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OFFICIAL
VISIT TO PYONGYANG AND PEKING, WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED
WITH GREAT FANFARE AND HAD MEETINGS WITH BOTH MAO TSE-TUNG
AND CHOU EN-LAI. BECAUSE OF HIS RECENT TRAVELS AND
RECEPTIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL, PLUS MINTOFF'S
KING-SIZE EGO AND THE INEVITABILITY OF COMPARISONS,
IT MIGHT WELL BE BETTER TO TURN SUGGESTED VISIT OFF
NOW, RATHER THAN RUN RISK OF OFFENDING HIM BY OUR INABILITY
TO RECEIVE HIM AT A LEVEL OR IN A MANNER WHICH HE WOULD
DEEM CONSISTENT WITH ITS IMPORTANCE. SMITH

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